



The High Plains Drifter

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
NORTH PLATTE, NE



<http://www.weather.gov/northplatte>

National Weather Service

Fall 2020

Winter Weather Awareness Day By Jaclyn Gomez-Meteorologist



Photo Courtesy of Cody Moldan

The National Weather Service has declared November 5, 2020 Winter Weather Awareness Day for the state of Nebraska, although this is prior to the official start of meteorological winter, December 1st and astronomical winter, December 21st, the day of the winter solstice. The reason Winter Weather Awareness day occurs prior to winter beginning is to remind Nebraskans of the upcoming winter weather and the dangers it can pose to life and property.

Now is a good time to prepare a winter safety kit for both your home and your vehicle. Remember, you can find the latest weather information at www.weather.gov/northplatte

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Car Winter Survival Kit Checklist



- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight & Extra Batteries | <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets/Sleeping Bag | <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Clothing
Hats, Mittens, Parkas, Boots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Perishable Food
Granola Bars, Dried nuts, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Sand/Kitty Litter
Used for Traction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Snow Shovel | <input type="checkbox"/> Bottled Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone & Charger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice Scraper with Brush | <input type="checkbox"/> Booster Cables | <input type="checkbox"/> Flares/Triangles & other Bright Objects |

HALLOWEEN CLIMATE

By SAM MELTZER—METEOROLOGIST

There's nothing like trick-or-treating on a cool Halloween night. In the past, Western Nebraska has seen some extreme weather on October 31st. The North Platte Weather Forecast Office keeps record of daily climate data going back to 1874 for North Platte and 1890 for Valentine. From hot temperatures to snowfall, here are North Platte and Valentine's Halloween extremes:

	North Platte	Valentine
Highest Temperature	82° (1950)	85° (1990)
Lowest Temperature	4° (2019)	-1° (1991)
Greatest Precipitation	1.23 in. (1987)	.59 in. (1920)
Greatest Snowfall	3.4 in. (1912)	6.5 in. (1920)
Greatest Snow Depth	6.0 in. (2009)	7.0 in. (1929)

This year, temperatures are expected to be seasonably cool under mostly clear skies. Stay tuned for upcoming forecasts. Happy Halloween!



NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WINTER SPOTTER TALKS RETURN FOR 2020

BY SHAWN JACOBS— WARNING COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST

This year, the National Weather Service Forecast Office in North Platte will offer virtual winter spotter classes to help you prepare for the 2020 winter season. If you would like to assist your local community by becoming a volunteer winter weather spotter and report snowfall amounts, ice accumulations and any winter hazard to the National Weather Service, or if you simply want to learn more about winter weather, consider attending one of our classes. The classes typically last up to one hour and will be held virtually. Attendees are taught the basics of winter weather hazards along with what, when, and how to report to the National Weather Service in North Platte.

Winter Spotter Talk Schedule:

- **Thursday, November 5, 2020, 7 PM Central**
- **Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 2 PM Central**
- **Thursday, November 12, 2020, 7 PM Central**
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 7 PM Central**
- **Tuesday, November 24, 2020, 7 PM Central**

If you are interested in joining us, please register for the North Platte National Weather Service Winter Spotter Training at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4210051323654531595>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

WEATHER TRIVIA ***BY BILL TAYLOR— METEOROLOGIST***

1. The coldest game in NFL history remains the Ice Bowl, the 1967 NFL championship between the Cowboys and Packers in Green Bay. What was the game-time temperature?
A. 0
B. 7
C. -19
D. -13
2. True or False: Although Hawaii is the wettest state in the U.S., the city of Honolulu does not receive a high amount of rainfall, receiving only 18.29" annually.
3. Which of the following is the least rainy city – Seattle, New York City or Miami?
4. True or False: The highest wind speed ever recorded was atop Mount Washington in New Hampshire.

Answers on page 6

Join the Western and North Central Nebraska CoCoRaHS Network!

Looking for another way help the science community by submitting your precipitation reports? Consider joining the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network or CoCoRaHS. CoCoRaHS is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). The nonprofit CoCoRaHS network stresses training and education and the National Science Foundation and other contributors provide funding.

Volunteers use low-cost measurement tools and an interactive website to provide the highest quality data for natural resource, education, and research applications. Data users include both organizations and individuals. Climatologists, hydrologists, water managers, and the National Weather Service use these data to monitor drought, heavy rainfall, and precipitation patterns.

The only requirements for observers are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions, a rain gauge (as a cooperative observer, you already have a rain gauge), access to the internet, and a willingness to enter your precipitation data on a daily basis between 5AM-9AM through the CoCoRaHS web site. Participation takes just a few minutes a day. Training courses are available on the CoCoRaHS web site.

To join, complete the online training at: www.cocorahs.org. Any questions can be directed to the Western Nebraska CoCoRaHS coordinator, Rachel Kulik, at: rachel.kulik@noaa.gov.



LOCAL COOPERATIVE OBSERVER NEWS

By JACLYN GOMEZ-METEOROLOGIST

The North Platte Weather Service Office would like to thank all of their observers for their dedication to the program, especially with the unusual year we have had so far due to the pandemic. A big thanks to everyone for keeping up with all their observations and giving us weather reports, especially during the severe weather season.

We have one new observer, Matt Kastens, who is located in Anselmo, Nebraska. Mr. Kastens is taking over the Anselmo site for Ruth Lindly, who retired this summer. Matt has known the Lindly family for years and has helped Ruth out with taking observations over the years since her husband passed away.

Ruth and her husband Leonard began taking observations in 1995, and took observations for Anselmo for over 20 years before Leonard passed away in the spring of 2016. Ruth continued to take observations after her husband passed away, knowing the passion and love Leonard had for his duty as a cooperative observer. Ruth took observations through spring 2020 before retiring just shy of 25 years of service, providing observations to the National Weather Service.

Over the years Ruth and Leonard received numerous Length-of-Service awards, along with receiving the prestigious John Campanius Holm award in 2016. This award is only given to 25 cooperative weather observers across the United States each year. The Holm award is to honor observers for their outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations.



Pictured left to right is Ruth and Leonard Lindly receiving their 20 year Length-of-Service award in 2015.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES?

BY SHAWN JACOBS-WARNING COORDINATION METEOROLOGIST

The National Weather Service has a wide variety of educational resources and real time data to study the Earth's processes and interactions. These resources include primary data in physical, Earth and biological sciences along with interactive lesson plans and videos for educators. Some of the key material for educators and their students can be found at the following websites:

National Weather Service - <https://www.weather.gov/>

National Severe Storms Laboratory - <https://www.nssl.noaa.gov/education>

National Weather Service Education - <https://www.weather.gov/education/>

NWS Jet Stream: Online School offering basic meteorology - <https://www.weather.gov/jetstream/>

NOAA Climate - <https://www.noaa.gov/climate>

NOAA Education - <https://www.noaa.gov/education>

NOAA Data in the Classroom - <https://dataintheclassroom.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Resource Collections - <https://www.noaa.gov/education/resource-collections>

Space Weather Prediction - <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/content/education-and-outreach>

WEATHER TRIVIA ANSWERS

BY BILL TAYLOR— METEOROLOGIST

1.The answer is **D**; -13 degrees! The wind chill index was a bone chilling -36 degrees!

2. The answer is **True!** Yes, Hawaii is the wettest state, but that is on the east, or windward side of the Big Island. The west, or leeward side, of the Hawaiian Islands are actually quite dry. An island's windward side faces the prevailing, or trade, winds, whereas the island's leeward side faces away from the wind, sheltered from prevailing winds by hills and mountains. Typically the windward side in the tropics is wet and the leeward side is much drier.

3.The answer is **Seattle!** Although on average Seattle is cloudy 227 days a year, it only receives around 39 inches of rain per year, compared to New York City which receives about 42 inches and Miami 60 inches.

4.The answer is **False!** The Mount Washington observatory record of 231 mph was toppled in 1996 when an unmanned instrument station on Barrow Island, Australia recorded a new record of 253 miles per hour during Tropical Cyclone Olivia. Though the Observatory record fell, it still stands as the highest surface wind speed ever observed by man.



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Comments and suggestions are
always welcome. Your feedback is very important to us!

<http://www.weather.gov/northplatte>